



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

566y
LINDA McCULLOCH

EXHIBIT # 11

DATE Jan 12 2011

HB 152

HB 152: Revise proof of residency & ID requirements for registering/voting.

House State Administration, Rm 455

January 12, 2011 @ 8 AM

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee.
- For the record, I am Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch.
- I am here today to respectfully oppose House Bill 152, on the grounds that it limits the legal right for Montana residents (as defined in 13-1-111) to register and to cast a ballot in their state of residence.
- Voting and participating in the elections process is one of the most fundamental rights we enjoy as American citizens. There is no justification for making it harder for eligible Montanans to register and to vote.
- This bill unnecessarily goes above and beyond the ID requirements outlined by the federal Help America Vote Act, which was signed by President Bush in 2002.
- Montana is a fiercely independent state, and it is rare to see a local measure that increases burdens that have been imposed by the Feds.
 - ***Examples of Montana opposing extreme federal requirements: Real ID Act of 2005 and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
 - ***We live a long way from Washington, D.C.
- If this bill passes, there will be additional administrative burdens placed on county election workers – which could lead to mistakes, voter confusion, and long lines at the polls.
- As Chief Elections Officer, I cannot support any measure that limits a Montanans' fundamental right to register and to vote. I urge you to oppose HB 152.
- Thank you for your time.